

**A new species of *Blennospora* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae)
from the Swan and Scott Coastal Plains of Western Australia**

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Abstract

Keighery, G.J. A new species of *Blennospora* (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae) from the Swan and Scott Coastal Plains. *Nuytsia* 15 (1): 33–36 (2002). A new species of *Blennospora* A. Gray, *B. doliiformis* Keighery, is described from the Swan and Scott Coastal Plains. The species occurs on clay soils in fresh winter-wet sites. A key is given to the three species now recognised in the genus.

Introduction

During intensive floristic and reserve surveys of the Swan Coastal Plain (Gibson *et. al.* 1994) it became apparent that several taxa present in the area required taxonomic study. One of these is a new species of *Blennospora* A.Gray, which is described here. This is the sixth in a series of papers (Keighery 1997, 1998, 2001a–c) describing new taxa from the Swan Coastal Plain.

Blennospora is a southern Australian genus in the subtribe Angianthinae Benth. (Asteraceae: Gnaphalieae). It was revised by Short (1987) who recognised two species, *B. drummondii* A. Gray, occurring in Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, and *B. phlegmatocarpa* (Diels) P.S. Short, confined to the wheatbelt of Western Australia. From his distribution maps it is apparent that at the time of his studies there were no collections of the genus from the Swan or Scott Coastal Plains. The earliest collection from these areas dates from late 1987 (*G.J. Keighery* 9274).

Taxonomy

Key to species in the genus *Blennospora*

- 1. Corolla lobes purplish-black **B. drummondii**
- 1. Corolla lobes yellow
 - 2. Involucral bracts inconspicuous, inflorescence ellipsoid-ovoid **B. phlegmatocarpa**
 - 2. Involucral bracts conspicuous, inflorescence barrel-shaped **B. doliiformis**

Blennospora doliiformis* Keighery, *sp. nov.

A *Blennospora drummondii* A.Gray caule erecto gracile, floribus aureis, inflorescentia doliiformi bracteis prominentibus differt.

Typus: Ruabon Nature Reserve, 33°39'S, 115°30'E, Western Australia, 3 November 1993, G.J. Keighery 12931 (*holo:* PERTH 00363369).

Annual herbs 5–15 cm high. *Major axis* erect, cottony-hairy but becoming glabrous and brown in basal 4 cm, stem usually simple, with 1 or 2 major branches at upper nodes. *Leaves* erect, semi-terete to terete, linear, often soft and more or less succulent, 5–15 mm long, *c.* 0.1 mm wide, mucronate, cottony-hairy, the uppermost leaves with hyaline apex and margins, never overtopping the inflorescence. *Inflorescence* barrel-shaped (urceolate to narrowly turbinate), flat at summit, 6–9 mm long, 4–6 mm wide. *Involucral bracts* conspicuous, pale brown, scarios, in 2 rows, obovate to oblanceolate, apex acute, margins entire, base densely hairy; outermost ones 4–6 mm long, 3–4 mm wide; inner ones 5–7 mm long, 4–5 mm wide. *Capitular bracts* in 2 or 3 rows; outer ones obovate-elliptic, 1.5–3 mm long, 0.5–1 mm wide, hyaline with a pale brown midrib, flat to conduplicate, margins roughly divided, glabrous internally but with long hairs at the base and uniting the bracts; inner ones elliptic to obovate, 2–4 mm long, 1.5–3 mm wide, hyaline margins entire or jagged, glabrous on the inner surface, base with long hairs uniting the bracts. *Florets* 1–3 per capitulum. *Corolla* with a tube 1.8–2.4 mm long; lobes 4 or 5, golden yellow. *Stamens* 5; anther 0.5–0.8 mm long. *Cypselas* brown, obovoid, 1–1.5 mm long, *c.* 1 mm diam. *Pappus* of 7 or 8 bristles, more or less equal to length of corolla tube. (Figure 1A,B)

Other specimens examined (all PERTH). WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 2 km SE of Ruabon on Wonnerup Rd, 33°39'S, 115°32'E, 9 Nov. 1987, G.J. Keighery 9274; Yoongarrillup Town Reserve, 33°43'S, 115°26'E, 14 Oct. 1992, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 005; Fish Road Nature Reserve, 33°44'S, 115°23'E, 14 Oct. 1992, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 006; Fish Road Nature Reserve, 33°44'S, 115°23'E, 14 Oct. 1992, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 010; Lake Muckenburra Reserve No. 25431, 31°21'S, 115°47'E, 27 Oct. 1993, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 026; Austin Bay Nature Reserve, 32°37'S, 115°47'E, 29 Oct. 1993, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 020 & 021; Ruabon Nature Reserve, 33°39'S, 115°31'E, 8 Nov. 1992, B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 010; Scott National Park, 34°17'S, 115°15'E, 1 Nov. 1990, C.J. Robinson 300.

Distribution. Recorded from Gingin to Busselton on the Swan Coastal Plain, then disjunct to the Scott Coastal Plain.

Habitat. Occurs on seasonally wet clay soils either grey or red clay over ironstone under *Melaleuca cuticularis* low woodland, *Melaleuca uncinata*/*M. viminea* shrubland, *Dryandra squarrosa* shrubland or lateritic heath.

Flowering period. Flowering in late spring, from October to November. Mature Fruits and seeds are found in late December to January. Seeds are held in the inflorescence on the dried dead plants until the rains of the following winter.

Conservation status. Conservation Codes for the Western Australian Flora: Priority Three. On the Swan Coastal Plain this species has been recorded from five actual or proposed reserves (Keighery 1999).

Etymology. The specific name *doliiformis*, from the Latin for barrel-shaped, refers to the inflorescence of this species.

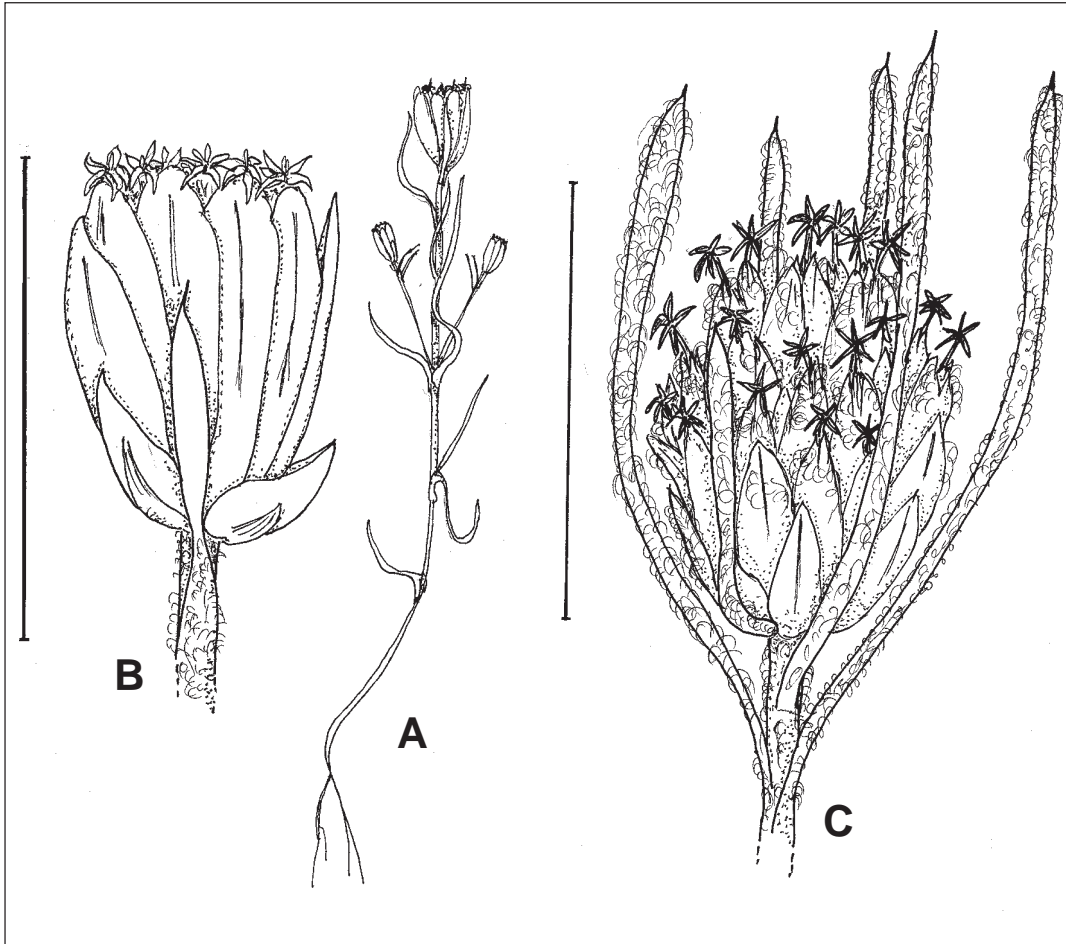


Figure 1. A, B – *Blennospora doliiformis*, drawn from G.J. Keighery 9274 (PERTH). A – whole plant; B – inflorescence (scale bar = 10 mm); C – *Blennospora drummondii*, inflorescence (scale bar = 10 mm), drawn from G.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 2888 (PERTH).

Notes. Previously known by the informal name *Blennospora* sp. Ruabon (B.J. Keighery & N. Gibson 20). It differs from *Blennospora drummondii* in the shorter narrower leaves, flat-topped barrel shaped inflorescence compared to ellipsoid to broadly ellipsoid or ovoid to broadly ovoid (see Figure 1C), in having conspicuous inflorescence bracts, in the leaves not overtopping the inflorescence, and the flowers not aging brown. Plants are normally single-stemmed and do not branch near the base as is frequently the case in *B. drummondii*.

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